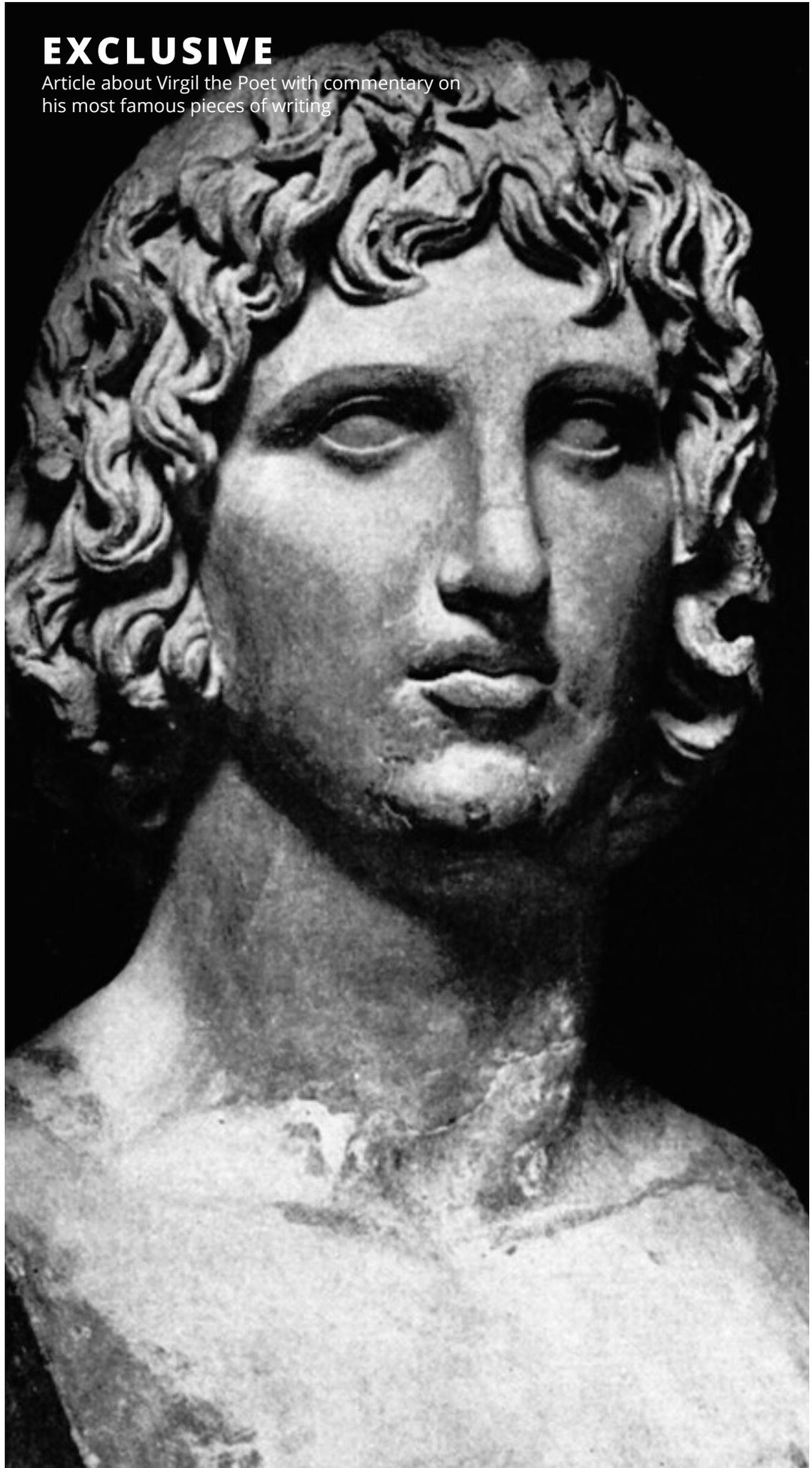


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EXCLUSIVE

Article about Virgil the Poet with commentary on his most famous pieces of writing



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SALVETE OMNES!

Welcome to the 75th Annual Cascadia JCL Convention, as well as our 2nd Online Convention. This year's theme comes from one of Virgil's works, the *Eclouges*. Our quote this year is:

LET US GO SINGING AS FAR AS WE GO - THE ROAD WILL BE LESS TEDIOUS. - VERGIL (ECLOGUES 9.64)



We the members of the Junior Classical League, covenant to hand on the torch of classical civilization in the modern world.

We believe an acquaintance with the civilization of Greece and Rome will help us understand and appraise this world of today,

Which is indebted to the ancient civilization in its government and laws, literature, language and arts.

We affirm the JCL experience develops responsibility, fosters brotherhood, promotes enthusiasm, encourages competition, inspires dedication and enriches our total growth.

ROME'S MOST FAMOUS POET

Who was Virgil the Poet?

Publius Vergilius Maro, or Virgil the Poet, was born on October 15th 70 BCE. Born of peasant stock, he received a good education and fell in love with poetry. His work has inspired many other poets throughout history, and is regarded as essential to the literature of the ancient world. His three main works are:



The *Eclouges* (42-37 BCE)

Think of this as Virgil's literary debut. The *Eclouges* are a series of ten pastoral poems that follow various characters living along Rome's countryside. Everything is depicted as a utopia, an ideal landscape, or *escape*, from the harsh realities of the ancient world. The characters range from shepherds to farmers to farm girls, who all live happily together on their perfect farm.

The *Georgics* (37-30 BCE)

Virgil's second collection of poems were completely different from his first work. The *Georgics* are practical instructions written in prose. They explain how to plow the ground, tend cattle, and keep bees. It's a vivid insight into nature that, in Seneca's words, was written "not to instruct farmers, but to delight readers."

The *Aenied* (30-19 BCE)

His most famous piece of writing, the *Aenied*, is an essential to Rome's history and literature, as it tells the origin story of Rome's first settlement, following Aeneas, a Trojan who had lost everything. Virgil took many dates, themes, and subjects from Homer's work, the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, and used them as models for his poem. It's also significant that Virgil wrote Aeneas' character as a self-insert for Augustus; Aeneas' strengths and weaknesses can be interpreted as Augustus' strengths and weaknesses. So while the *Aenied* is seen as a classic in ancient literature, it can also be interpreted as an allegory for Rome's political affairs. These dual interpretations are what make it masterpiece in today's world.